

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated 7/3/01. Applicant has amended Claim 24 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 22-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,978,773 granted to *Hudetz et al.*

Regarding the rejection of Claims 22-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hudetz et al.*, this rejection is respectfully traversed as follows. The second and third subparagraphs of Applicants' independent Claim 22 reads in part as follows:

inputting the decoded information to a defined port on the user computer which has an existing first functionality associated with the operation of the user computer which is not the same functionality as the step of inputting the decoded information, *such that the step of inputting comprises a second functionality, with the port of the user computer operable to accommodate for both the first and second functionality during operation thereof;*

detecting operation under the second functionality when decoded information is input to the port;

In the Examiner's analysis only the first portion of the step of "inputting" is analyzed. The remainder of the recitation of this step is omitted, which recitation further defines the step of inputting and which recitation also is not disclosed in the cited reference. Therefore, the step of inputting as set forth in Claim 22 is absent from *Hudetz et al.* However, even if the step of inputting was considered in its entirety, the "defined port" as recited in the claim is not met by "I/O port" as stated by the Examiner because the reference does not disclose a port defined to have first and second functionalities which is operable to accommodate both the first and second functionalities during operation thereof. For this reason also the step of inputting is absent from the cited reference.

Moreover, the Examiner's analysis also omits the step of "detecting operation under the second functionality" in its entirety. However, this step is also absent from *Hudetz et al.*, there being no

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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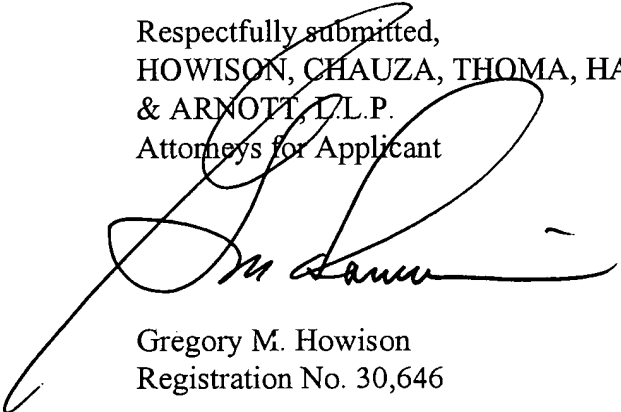
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disclosure therein of "detecting operation under the second functionality when decoded information is input to the port."

Because the *Hudetz et al.* reference lacks the steps of "inputting" and "detecting," it cannot be said to anticipate the Applicants' base claim 22. Further, since all of the remaining Claims 23-34 depend from base Claim 22, they are likewise not anticipated by the cited reference because all of the limitations of Claim 22 are contained in each of the dependent Claims 23-34. The Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection and the full allowance of all the Claims 22-34 now pending in the application.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/PHLY-24,910 of HOWISON, CHAUZA, THOMA, HANDLEY & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWISON, CHAUZA, THOMA, HANDLEY
& ARNOTT, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicant



Gregory M. Howison
Registration No. 30,646

GMH:jk

P.O. Box 741715
Dallas, Texas 75374-1715
Tel: 972-479-0462
Fax: 972-479-0464
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

24. The method of Claim 22, wherein the [decoded]coded symbol comprises a bar code.